

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF  
MEMBER OF THE HON. STENY H.  
HOYER, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS) laid before the House the following communication from Cory B. Alexander, staff member of the Hon. STENY H. HOYER, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 19, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that I have been served with a subpoena ad testificandum issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, in the case of *Pointe Properties, Inc., et al. v. Michael J. Bevenour, et al.*, Case No. 96-CA-009720.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that the subpoena relates to my official duties, and that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

CORY B. ALEXANDER.

#### TRIBUTE TO BILLY G. TURNER, PRESIDENT, GEORGIA WATER WORKS BOARD

(Mr. COLLINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago the Columbus, Georgia Water Works Board established the goal of having the best water system in the Nation by the year 2000. With the guidance and experience of its president, Billy G. Turner, that goal has been achieved.

On June 8, the EPA Regional Administrator will present Mr. Turner with the award for having the best large water treatment plant in the Southeast. In all, he has received seven other prestigious national, State and regional awards in 1998, including top national honors for design.

As recognized by the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, they are doing more with less. Employees have been reduced without layoffs, and with a budget of \$1 million less than last year. But most importantly, water rates have been kept at a lower rate than most comparable cities.

Due to Mr. Turner's work, dedication and innovation, he was appointed President of the International Water Environment Federation. I would like to commend Mr. Turner for his efforts. The City of Columbus and the State of Georgia are fortunate to have him.

Mr. Speaker, I also provide for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD two recent articles from the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer about Mr. Turner and his outstanding work.

Mr. Speaker, just four years ago, the Columbus Water Works Board in the Third District of Georgia set out to have the best water system in the country by the year 2000. With the guidance and experience of its President,

William Turner, that goal is being achieved. It takes many people to achieve the successes which have been reached by Columbus Water Works. But I rise today to single out and commend Mr. Turner for his outstanding leadership, vision, and commitment to water quality.

On June 8, Region IV Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency John Hankinson will present Mr. Turner with the award for having the best large water treatment plant in the 10-state Southeast region. With seven prestigious national, state-wide, and regional awards in 1998, this is yet another honor for him in the water quality field.

Already, the Columbus combined sewer treatment and Riverwalk project earned top national honors for design from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. Mr. Turner spearheaded the development of this new technology demonstration project which EPA estimated will save over \$42 billion for small cities across the country.

In addition, Columbus has received the first ever award for wastewater collection and water distribution from the Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association. It was honored with a Gold award for being in 100 percent compliance with all regulations from the Association of Metropolitan Sewer Agencies. And, the Water Works was presented with a certificate of excellence by the Government Finance Officers Association.

And if that weren't enough, they are doing more with less. Currently, water works employees have been reduced without layoffs and are operating with a budget \$1 million less than last year. In addition, water rates have been kept at a lower rate than most comparable cities. Most importantly though, the quality of water in the Columbus area has been greatly enhanced, something which has immeasurable value and importance not only to Columbus but to cities nationwide.

Mr. Turner's work has also garnered the respect of his peers and colleagues. His dedication and innovation also led to his appointment as President of the International Water Environment Federation, a term which he just completed.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks and congratulations to Mr. Turner, his wife Judee, his sons Rodney, Chris, and Jeff, and his two new grand-daughters. The City of Columbus and the State of Georgia are fortunate to have him.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD two articles from The Columbus Ledger which were recently written about Mr. Turner and his outstanding work.

[From the Columbus Ledger, May 13, 1998]

#### DOING MORE FOR LESS

Much of our frustration with Atlanta's failure to get its water treatment act together comes from our own success. Fact is, the examples of innovativeness, effectiveness and efficiency set by the Columbus Water Works is a mixed blessing: On one hand, we can be proud of what has been recognized as one of the finest systems in the state and even the country; on the other, our familiarity with how it's done right makes us even less patient with seeing it done wrong.

The Water Works has received no fewer than seven national and regional awards this year, including the American Academy of Environmental Engineers' top honor for the CSO/Riverwalk project, the first of its kind in the country, and an EPA award for the best large water treatment plant in the 10-state Southeast region.

What makes the Water Works' success even more impressive is that a leaner operation is doing more. President Billy Turner notes that the budget is down by \$1 million over the previous year, the staff is smaller and the rates still lower than those in comparable cities.

Turner and all the employees of the Columbus Water Works have a right to feel proud of what they've accomplished in the past couple of years. Here's hoping they keep up the good work.

[From the Columbus Ledger, May 12, 1998]

COLUMBUS WATER WORKS REAPS BENEFIT OF  
HARD WORK—NATIONAL, STATEWIDE; RE-  
GIONAL AWARDS PROVE COLUMBUS IS CLOS-  
ER TO REACHING GOAL

(By Amy Wolfford)

Four years ago, the Columbus Water Works board set out to have the best system in the country by the year 2000.

With seven national, statewide and regional awards this year, President Bill Turner said they are hitting that goal.

"These things are hard to come by," Turner told the board Monday. "Most people go through their life and don't get this kind of recognition."

Columbus' combined sewer treatment/Riverwalk project earned top national honors for design from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers.

The system, designed by Jodan, Jones & Goulding Inc. and completed in 1995, is the first of its kind in the United States and includes pipeline laid behind a retaining wall along the Chattahoochee River.

The board also learned it will get a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency award for having the best large water plant in a 10-state region in the Southeast.

Other awards include the following:

The Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association gave Columbus its first awards for wastewater collection and water distribution for large cities.

The South Columbus Water Resources facility was recognized with a Gold Award from the Association of Metropolitan Sewer Agencies for being in 100 percent compliance with all regulations.

The Government Finance Officers Association presented Columbus with its certificate of excellence.

#### MARRIAGE TAX ELIMINATION ACT

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, the question is pretty basic: Why should we pass the marriage tax elimination act. And I think the best way to answer that question is with a series of questions.

Do Americans feel that it is fair that the average married working couple pays more in taxes just because they are married?

Do Americans feel that it is fair that 21 million married working couples with two incomes pay more in taxes than an identical working couple that lives together outside of marriage, in fact, on average \$1,400 more?

Is it right that our Tax Code actually provides an incentive to get divorced? That is the only way that you can avoid the marriage tax penalty today.

It is not fair, it is not right, it is absolutely wrong that our Tax Code punishes 21 million married working couples just because they are married.

Now \$1,400 in the south suburbs of Chicago, that is real money. That is 1 year's tuition at Joliet Junior College. That is 3 months of day-care at a local day-care center. That is real money for real people in Illinois in the south suburbs.

There is no more unfair provision in the Tax Code. Let us eliminate the marriage tax penalty. Let us eliminate it now.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight what is arguably the most unfair provision in the U.S. Tax code: the marriage tax penalty. I want to thank you for your long term interest in bringing parity to the tax burden imposed on working married couples compared to a couple living together outside of marriage.

In January, President Clinton gave his State of the Union Address outlining many of the things he wants to do with the budget surplus.

A surplus provided by the bipartisan budget agreement which: cut waste, put America's fis-

cal house in order; and held Washington's feet to the fire to balance the budget.

While President Clinton paraded a long list of new spending totaling at least \$46-\$48 billion in new programs—we believe that a top priority should be returning the budget surplus to America's families as additional middle-class tax relief.

This Congress has given more tax relief to the middle class and working poor than any Congress of the last half century.

I think the issue of the marriage penalty can best be framed by asking these questions: Do Americans feel its fair that our tax code imposes a higher tax penalty on marriage? Do Americans feel its fair that the average married working couple pays almost \$1,400 more in taxes than a couple with almost identical income living together outside of marriage? Is it right that our tax code provides an incentive to get divorced?

In fact, today the only form one can file to avoid the marriage tax penalty is paperwork for divorce. And that is just wrong!

#### MARRIAGE PENALTY EXAMPLE IN THE SOUTH SUBURBS

	Machinist	School Teacher	Couple	Weller/McIntosh II
Adjusted Gross Income .....	\$30,500	\$30,500	\$61,000	\$61,000
Less Personal Exemption and Standard Deduction .....	\$6,550	\$6,550	\$11,800	13,100 (Singles x 2)
Taxable Income .....	\$23,950	\$23,950	\$49,200	\$47,900
	(x .15)	(x .15)	(Partial x .28)	(x .15)
Tax Liability .....	\$3592.5	\$3592.5	\$8563	\$7,185
		Marriage Penalty	\$1378	Relief \$1378

Weller-McIntosh II Eliminates the Marriage Tax Penalty

But if they chose to live their lives in holy matrimony, and now file jointly, their combined income of \$61,000 pushes them into a higher tax bracket of 28 percent, producing a tax penalty of \$1400 in higher taxes.

On average, America's married working couples pay \$1,400 more a year in taxes than individuals with the same incomes. That's serious money. Millions of married couples are still stinging from April 15th's tax bite and more married couples are realizing that they are suffering the marriage tax penalty.

Particularly if you think of it in terms of: a down payment on a house or a car, one year's tuition at a local community college, or several months worth of quality child care at a local day care center.

To that end, Congressman DAVID MCINTOSH and I have authored the Marriage Tax Penalty Elimination Act.

The Marriage Tax Penalty Elimination Act will increase the tax brackets (currently at 15% for the first \$24,650 for singles, whereas married couples filing jointly pay 15% on the first \$41,200 of their taxable income) to twice that enjoyed by singles; the Weller-McIntosh proposal would extend a married couple's 15% tax bracket to \$49,300. Thus, married couples would enjoy an additional \$8,100 in taxable income subject to the low 15% tax rate as opposed to the current 28% tax rate and would result in up to \$1,053 in tax relief.

Additionally the bill will increase the standard deduction for married couples (currently \$6,900) to twice that of singles (currently at \$4,150). Under the Weller-McIntosh legislation the standard deduction for married couples filing jointly would be increased to \$8,300.

Our new legislation builds on the momentum of their popular H.R. 2456 which enjoyed the support of 238 cosponsors and numerous family, women and tax advocacy organizations. Current law punishes many married couples who file jointly by pushing them into high-

er tax brackets. It taxes the income of the families' second wage earner—often the woman's salary—at a much higher rate than if that salary was taxed only as an individual. Our bill already has broad bipartisan cosponsorship by Members of the House and a similar bill in the Senate also enjoys widespread support.

It isn't enough for President Clinton to suggest tax breaks for child care. The President's child care proposal would help a working couple afford, on average, three weeks of day care. Elimination of the marriage tax penalty would give the same couple the choice of paying for three months of child care—or addressing other family priorities. After all, parents know better than Washington what their family needs.

We fondly remember the 1996 State of the Union address when the President declared emphatically that, quote “the era of big government is over.”

We must stick to our guns, and stay the course.

There never was an American appetite for big government.

But there certainly is for reforming the existing way government does business.

And what better way to show the American people that our government will continue along the path to reform and prosperity than by eliminating the marriage tax penalty.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are on the verge of running a surplus. It's basic math.

It means Americans are already paying more than is needed for government to do the job we expect of it.

What better way to give back than to begin with mom and dad and the American family—the backbone of our society.

We ask that President Clinton join with Congress and make elimination of the marriage tax penalty . . . a bipartisan priority.

Of all the challenges married couples face in providing home and hearth to America's

Since 1969, our tax laws have punished married couples when both spouses work. For no other reason that the decision to be joined in holy matrimony, more than 21 million a year are penalized. They pay more in taxes than they would if they were single. Not only is the marriage penalty unfair, it's wrong that our tax code punishes society's most basic institution. The marriage tax penalty exacts a disproportionate toll on working women and lower income couples with children. In many cases it is working women's issue.

Let me give you an example of how the marriage tax penalty unfairly affects middle class married working couples.

For example, a machinist, at a Caterpillar manufacturing plant in my home district of Joliet, makes \$30,500 a year in salary. His wife is a tenured elementary school teacher, also being home \$30,500 a year in salary. If they would both file their taxes as singles, as individuals they would pay 15%.

children, the U.S. tax code should not be one of them.

Let's eliminate The Marriage Tax Penalty and do it now!

#### WHICH IS BETTER?

Note: The President's Proposal to expand the child care tax credit will pay for only 2 to 3 weeks of child care. The Weller-McIntosh Marriage Tax Elimination Act, HR 2456, will allow married couples to pay for 3 months of child care.

#### WHICH IS BETTER, 3 WEEKS OR 3 MONTHS?

#### CHILD CARE OPTIONS UNDER THE MARRIAGE TAX ELIMINATION ACT

	Average Tax Relief	Average Weekly Day Care Cost	Weeks Day Care
Marriage Tax Elimination Act .....	\$1,400	\$127	11
President's Child Care Tax Credit .....	358	127	2.8

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ISTOOK AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, probably not many Members are aware of this but perhaps the first day after our return from Memorial Day recess, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) will make an effort to do something that has never been done in the